CARBON IN POWER SOURCE APPLICATIONS; filed 25 March 1996./ /Patent application 08/624,833: ULTRA-BROADBAND HYDROPHONE; filed 22 March 1996.//Patent application 08/624,835: ACOUSTIC ELEMENT TESTER FOR AN ARRAY OF HYDROPHONES; filed 22 March 1996.//Patent application 08/641,018: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DATA COMPRESSION; filed 15 April 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. R.J. Erickson, Staff Patent Attorney, Office of Naval Research (Code 00CC), Arlington, VA 22217–5660, telephone (703) 696–4001.

Dated: December 6, 1996.

D.E. Koenig,

LCDR, JAGC, USN, Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 96–31922 Filed 12–16–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3810–FF–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

DOE Implementation Plan for Recommendation 96–1 of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, In-Tank Precipitation System at the Savannah River Site

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board published Recommendation 96–1, concerning the In-Tank Precipitation System at the Savannah River Site, in the Federal Register on August 23, 1996 (61 FR 43534). Section 315(e) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2286d(e) requires the Department of Energy to transmit an implementation plan to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board after acceptance of the Recommendation by the Secretary. The Department's implementation plan was sent to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board on November 12, 1996, and is available for review in the Department of Energy Public Reading Rooms.

DATES: Comments, or views concerning the implementation plan are due on or before January 16, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Send Comments, data, or views concerning the implementation plan to: Department of Energy, Savannah River Operations Office, Road 1, Aiken, South Carolina 29801. Attention: Mr. Lee Watkins, Assistant Manager for High Level Waste.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Lee Watkins, Assistant Manager for High Level Waste, Department of Energy, Savannah River Operations Office, Road 1, Aiken, South Carolina 29801.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on November 26, 1996.

Mark B. Whitaker, Jr.,

Departmental Representative to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

November 12, 1996.

The Honorable John T. Conway,
Chairman, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, 625 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mr. Chairman: This letter forwards the Department's implementation plan for addressing the issues raised in the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's Recommendation 96–1.

The implementation plan presents a comprehensive strategy to resolve the safety issues related to the benzene generation at the In-Tank Precipitation Facility. The implementation plan addresses three major areas of investigation regarding the chemical and physical mechanisms of benzene generation, retention, and release. The consolidation and evaluation of the specific laboratory tests will provide the information necessary to revise the Authorization Basis and indicate any modifications needed to resume full operation of the facility.

The implementation plan was prepared by Mr. Lee Watkins, Assistant Manager for High Level Waste, Savannah River Operations Office, in coordination with senior Department managers and Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board staff. We appreciate your staff's dedication and support of the development of this plan.

Sincerely,

Hazel R. O'Leary

[FR Doc. 96–31960 Filed 12–16–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–M

DOE Response to Recommendation 96–1 of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, In-Tank Precipitation System of the Savannah River Site

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board published Recommendation 96–1, concerning the In-Tank Precipitation System at the Savannah River Site, in the Federal Register on August 23, 1996 (61 FR 43534). Section 315(b) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2286d(b) requires the Department of Energy to transmit a response to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board by October 7, 1996. The Secretary's response follows:

DATES: Comments, data, views, or arguments concerning the Secretary's response are due on or before January 16, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Send comments, data, views, or arguments concerning the Secretary's response to: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, 625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Lee Watkins, Assistant Manager for High Level Waste, Department of Energy, Savannah River Operations Office, Road 1, Aiken, South Carolina 29801.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on October 8, 1996.

Mark B. Whitaker,

Departmental Representative to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

September 16, 1996.

The Honorable John T. Conway,
Chairman, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, 625 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20004.

Dear Mr. Chairman: Thank you for your August 14, 1996, letter transmitting the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's Recommendation 96–1. The Department accepts Recommendation 96–1.

Safe operation of the In-Tank Precipitation System is vital to the success of the entire high-level waste system at the Savannah River Site, and an adequate understanding of benzene generation and release is necessary for safe operation. We appreciate your offer to allocate priority resources to join in the expedited development of a mutually acceptable Implementation Plan, and we look forward to your assistance in this matter.

The Savannah River Operations Office has directed that necessary modifications are completed and approval of a revised safety basis be obtained prior to resuming process operations of the In-Tank Precipitation System. Discussions between the Board, Board staff members, and Savannah River personnel on August 28, 1996, were beneficial in clarifying expectations for:

- The identification of catalysts that contribute to benzene generation in the facility;
- Investigation of the chemical and physical mechanisms that could influence the retention or release of benzene in the waste slurry;
- Adequacy of safety measures, including the Authorization Basis, for in-plant testing and full operation of the system; and
- Laboratory testing to improve the understanding of the tetraphenylborate chemistry in the waste slurries.

As stated in the Recommendation, the Department and Westinghouse Savannah River Company have brought substantial expertise to bear on understanding the science of the In-Tank Precipitation System process, and we will continue to do so as we work to ensure a successful resolution of this Recommendation.

Given the site-specific nature of the Recommendation, I have designated Mr. Lee Watkins, the Assistant Manager for High Level Waste, Savannah River Operations Office, as the responsible manager for the preparation of the Implementation Plan. Mr. Watkins can be reached on (803) 208–6053.